

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to enable user-authoring of content within an interactive television environment, the method including:

~~at a source system,~~ communicating television content from a source system to a receiver system, the television content to be presented to a user by the receiver system;

~~at the source system,~~ communicating authoring data along with said television content,
said authoring data comprising media information associated with the television content, from said source system to the receiver system; and

~~at the source system,~~ communicating an authoring application from said source system to the receiver system, the authoring application being executable by the receiver system to enable the user to create new authored ~~author~~ content, said new authored content including utilizing the authoring data associated with the television content as selected by said user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, including, at the source system, receiving the authoring data from a content source, and associating the authoring data with the television content.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the authoring data is contextual to the television content.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the authoring application comprises a messaging application executable by the receiver system to enable the

user to include the new authored content within a message, and to enable the user to communicate the message.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the television content, the authoring data, and the authoring application are communicated from the source system as a combined communication.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the combined communication comprises a broadcast.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content, the authoring data, and the authoring application.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said authoring data comprises text, images, and audio associated with said television content including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application, receiving from the user identification of at least a portion of the authoring data associated with the television content, and including the portion of the authoring data within the authored content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[8]], including executing the authoring application to present a user interface for display on the receiver system, the user interface to receive the user identification of the portion of the authoring data to be included within the new authored ~~author~~ content.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface presents the authoring data in association with the television content at the receiver system for [[user-]] selection by said user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to transmit the authored content as part of a message to a recipient.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, including executing the authoring application to prompt the user to provide identification information for the recipient.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiver system is an interactive television system, and the authoring application is an interactive television application.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to present a virtual keyboard for display on the receiver system, the virtual keyboard to facilitate alphanumeric input by said [[a]] user.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to receive alphanumeric input from said [[a]] user, and to identify the alphanumeric input for inclusion along with authoring data within the authored content.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, including, at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to receive a recipient identifier to identify a recipient of a message that includes the authored content.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message comprises a SMS message, and the recipient identifier comprises a telephone number.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message comprises an e-mail message, and the recipient identifier comprises an e-mail address.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the message comprises an instant message, and the recipient identifier comprises an instant message handle.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, including executing the authoring application at the receiver system to communicate the message via a return path to the source system.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the return path is a bi-directional communication channel.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the authoring data includes at least one of a group of information types including numeric, alphanumeric, picture, logo, icon, video, and audio data.

23. (Currently Amended) A system including:
a source system to distribute television content, ~~to a receiver system, the source system further to distribute~~ auxiliary authoring data, and an authoring application to a plurality of receiver systems ~~information~~, said auxiliary authoring data comprising media information associated with and transmitted along with the television content, to the receiver system; and
a receiver system to receive the television content, auxiliary authoring data, and authoring application information from the source ~~receiver~~ system, said authoring application allowing a user to create authored content with ~~together with a recipient identifier, and to cause the auxiliary authoring data information to be included within a message to be communicated to a recipient identified by the recipient identifier.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the source system includes a broadcast system to broadcast the television content to the receiver system.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the broadcast system is further to broadcast the auxiliary authoring data ~~information~~ to the receiver system.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the source system is to distribute a messaging application to the receiver system, the messaging application to receive ~~present~~ the authored content ~~auxiliary information~~ for communication in a message ~~to the receiver system~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the source system is to distribute the messaging application in conjunction with the television content and the auxiliary authoring data ~~information~~.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the receiver system is to communicate the authored content ~~auxiliary information~~ to a messaging system for inclusion within the message.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 ~~23~~, wherein the message is an SMS message, and the recipient identifier is a telephone number.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 ~~23~~, wherein the message is an e-mail message, and the recipient identifier is an e-mail address.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 ~~23~~, wherein the message is an instant message, and the recipient identifier is an instant message handle.

32. (Currently Amended) An authoring application for execution on a client machine, the authoring application including:

- a receiver component to receive auxiliary authoring data ~~information~~, said auxiliary authoring data comprising more than one item of media information associated with ~~the~~ and broadcast with television content received by said client machine;
- a display component to display the auxiliary authoring data ~~information~~ to a user; and
- an input component to receive user identification of at least a portion of the auxiliary authoring data ~~content~~; and

a messaging component to create a message including ~~identify~~ the portion of the auxiliary authoring data for content ~~to a messaging system for inclusion within a message~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The authoring application of claim 32, wherein the messaging component is to communicate the portion of the auxiliary authoring data ~~content~~ to the messaging system.

34. (Currently Amended) The authoring application of claim 32, wherein the input display component is to receive alphanumeric input from the user for inclusion within the message, and the messaging component is to communicate the alphanumeric input to the messaging system.

35. (Original) The authoring application of claim 34, wherein the display component is to display a virtual keyboard via the client machine to a user, the virtual keyboard to facilitate input of the alphanumeric input by the user into the client machine.

36. (Currently Amended) The authoring application of claim 32, wherein the input display component is to receive a recipient identifier identifying a recipient of the message.

37. (Original) The authoring application of claim 36, wherein the recipient identifier is selected by a user from a list of stored recipient identifiers.

38. (Original) The authoring application of claim 36, wherein the recipient identifier is received as alphanumeric input from the user.

39. (Currently Amended) The authoring application of claim 32, wherein the messaging component is to communicate with the messaging system ~~[[of]]~~ via a return path.

40. (Original) The authoring application of claim 39, wherein the return path is a bi- directional communication channel.

41. (Original) A machine-readable medium storing a set of instructions that, when executed by machine, causing machine to perform the method of claim 1.

42. (Cancelled) A machine-readable medium storing a set of instructions that, when executed by machine, cause the machine to perform any of the methods described herein.